

JOSEPH ROSE WARNED BECKER AGAINST ROSENTHAL

Anxious Crowd Watching "Bridge of Sighs" To Get Glimpse of Becker on Way Back to Tombs



CROWD WATCHING FOR BECKER TO CROSS THE "BRIDGE OF SIGHTS."

Would have to do something and this would be just the excuse I need. I sent you to get that \$500 and I needed the money. Now that I have refused to go to the Tombs, I know all his men and won't let them in here.

"Becker said: 'Oh, that's his attitude. Is it? Well, then, I'll go ahead and raid that place.'

"I told Herman what Becker said to me and Herman said: 'Well, you tell him that I won't stand for anything like that. I can make trouble for Becker and he knows it.'

"This conversation I reported to Becker, and he said he had made his arrangements to raid the place and close it up. He wasn't going to let Rosenthal stay off any longer. He said Commissioner Waldo was after him to close that place.

"I went to Herman and told him about Mr. Waldo's order. Rosenthal said: 'You tell Becker he can't bluff me. I don't believe that Waldo story.' I reported back to Becker what Rosenthal said. Becker said: 'Well, we'll see. Shortly after that Becker met me again in two or three days. He said complaints against that place were piling in and they were after him to raid it. I said: 'All right, Charley, if you can get the evidence, why don't you make the raid?' Herman says he knows all your men and you can't get any of them in there to get the evidence.

SENDS ROSE BACK TO ROSENTHAL AGAIN.

"Becker said: 'I want you to go to Rosenthal and tell him that I'd help him out and been a good friend of his. I want you to tell Rosenthal that he's got to stand for a raid. You tell him that the raid won't close him up permanently, but that it will open up again in a few days. All I want is to have a record of having raided the place. That'll stop all those knocks and complaints that are coming in on me.'

"When I told this to Herman, he got hot and said: 'Becker must be a fool to think he can raid me without hurting me. Why he might as well take a torch and touch off my place and burn it down.'

ROSENTHAL SENT WORD HE WOULDN'T STAND FOR RAID.

"I said: 'You've got to end this thing with Becker.' Herman said: 'Oh, I don't care. You tell Becker this my place and that I am not going to stand for any raid from him.' I told Becker and he said: 'That place will be raided and by me in the next few days.' I refused to take that message to Rosenthal, because I knew it spelled trouble. A few days later, at the Union Square Hotel, Becker said to me: 'I am going to take that place within a week.' I asked him if he wanted me to take that message to Rosenthal and he said: 'No, I am through with that.'

The witness said that the next time he met Becker the policeman told him he was through with Rosenthal and was going ahead with the raid.

SAID IT WAS WORTH \$1,500 TO MAKE RAID.

"I've got a plan of that place," Becker said. "I've arranged to have Detectives Steiner and White get the evidence. I don't care about that mortgage. It'll be worth \$1,500 to me to make that raid. Steiner and White (the detective who was doing a lot of framing 'Big Jack' Zelig) will get into Rosenthal's place and get all the evidence I need."

"On the afternoon of the day of the raid, Becker told me he had warrants secured by Steiner and White and that he would make the raid that night and arrest Rosenthal, Harry Fleming, John Goodman and Sam Rosenthal. That night the raid was made and the men across the street, in front of Burns' restaurant, Rosenthal joined me there and we stood there while the raid was made. We saw the men smash down a patrol wagon and all the gambling paraphernalia was put in, with a prisoner named Fleming, a nephew of Mr. Rosenthal.

"I saw Becker next day at the Union Square. He said that in police court Herman had come to him and said: 'That's a tough deal you gave me last night! Becker said he had Herman: "Well, I had to do it. It was either up to me or Costigan (Lieut. Honest Dan) to make the raid. If Costigan had made the raid, I would have lost my job. So I simply had to make the raid on your house."

"Becker said that Herman said to him that he might have tipped him off about the raid. Herman said that it was a tough deal, and asked me to put it up to Becker to turn the case down and out of the police court.

"Becker said to Rosenthal then: 'I can't do it in the police court, but I'll have the case fixed up downtown. When White and Steiner go down to Special Sessions their testimony won't hurt you, and the case will be thrown out.'

Rose said that Rosenthal had continued to complain to Becker and was especially sore about the mortgage he had given on property that belonged to his wife. Herman said: 'You've got to square this thing or I'll make a lot of trouble for you. I'll have you broke.' Becker heard this he came to me, swore, Rose, and said: 'What do you think of the nerve of that fellow?' Rosenthal then went into court, continued Rose, and instructed his men to waive examination. The next day Becker asked me if I had seen Rosenthal. I said: 'No, not to talk to.' Becker said: 'I had met Rosenthal and he had refused to talk to me. Becker asked me what I heard of the raid, and I answered that it had caused a lot of talk. We had had a talk and he was constantly asking me what Rosenthal was doing. I told him that Rosenthal was beginning to talk because a policeman was kept in his house. A few days later Becker told me indictments had been returned against Rosenthal's men. I told him I was sorry, for I feared it would cause trouble."

ROSE LOSES HIS NERVOUSNESS ON THE STAND.

As Rose warmed up to his narrative his nervousness disappeared and his voice steadied down to a matter-of-fact tone.

"Later," continued Rose, "Becker came to my house and told me Rosenthal had been calling him up daily,

wanting a meeting to find out what he was going to do about the indictments and the stay of those policemen in his house. Becker refused to see him and left orders that he was going to show him (Becker) up."

"A few days later, Becker said Commissioner Waldo sent for him and asked if there was any truth in the story that he was interested in Rosenthal's gambling house. Becker said he only laughed at Mr. Waldo and had said to him: 'Why, Mr. Commissioner, that is a funny story about a cop giving up. Usually the story is that a policeman is getting money—not giving up money to gamblers.'

"I told Becker that Commissioner Waldo didn't believe these statements. Becker said he just wanted to tell the Commissioner what rumors were around."

"A little later Becker came to me and said that a newspaper man had been to Waldo and wanted to get an interview about Becker's raiding of Rosenthal. This reporter said he had seen Rosenthal and had been told certain things of a sensational character. Becker said the Commissioner had refused to grant an interview. Becker told me he was worried, as Herman was doing a lot of talking. I asked him what he was worrying so long as Mr. Waldo believed him and wouldn't listen to the rumors about Rosenthal."

HIS TALKS WITH BECKER ABOUT NEWSPAPER STORIES.

Q. Did you talk to Becker about newspaper articles regarding Becker? A. Becker said Rosenthal had been trying to get newspaper men to publish stories about Becker, but Becker said he was not worried. "Jack Sullivan," he told me, "can control all the papers and keep them from publishing anything about Rosenthal."

Q. Were there any publications about which Becker spoke to you? A. After this Becker told me that The World had been told that they were about to publish it. This was on Saturday night. Becker told me that he didn't intend to get the charges in that affidavit. He said he was going to The World with his counsel and ask to see the affidavit. He said that Deputy Commissioner McKay had told him that he had an action for criminal libel against Rosenthal.

Q. Did Becker say anything about his personal attitude toward Rosenthal? A. Several times before the publication of this story in The World, Becker talked to me. One day he phoned me to meet him at the Union Square Hotel. He said to me: "This fellow Rosenthal is trying to expose me as his partner and grafter. He is trying to break me. He has tried to get the papers to print his story, but failed. He has tried to see Magistrate Corrigan, but he would do nothing. He has tried to tell Chief Magistrate McAdoo that the warrants on which I raided his place were secured on perjured testimony. He has tried to see Mayor and the Mayor said he was not going to see him. Now he is directing his attention toward the District Attorney's office, and that is getting dangerous. He must be stopped."

"I said: 'What do you mean?' He replied: 'There is a fellow I want croaked.' I said: 'There are other ways of handling Rosenthal.' 'No,' he said, 'he must be croaked.'

"I would have no scruples against him," Becker said. "I want to tell you something. I rode downtown in a taxi with Herman Rosenthal last night. I rode with him to the house on Southern Boulevard and saw Lefty Louis. I told him Becker was getting very sore at the delay and wanted something done. I told Lefty Louis that Becker said if something wasn't done there'd be trouble over the delay."

Becker's counsel demanded that Rose furnish the dates of these interviews, but the Court permitted the witness to go ahead with his amazing tale of graft and murder. Not once did Justice Goff uphold the defense's objections.

"I said, all right, I will see you in a day or two. If I do not come, I will send some one to take you to where Rosenthal is. I told Becker the next day the fellows were on the job and that it would happen soon."

"In a couple of days Becker came to me and said: 'They have done that job. It begins to look like I'll have to do it myself.' I told him the men were only waiting to meet Rosenthal downtown. 'Why meet him downtown? Croak him anywhere. Break into his house. I'll take care of them.'

"Two days later Becker said: 'You are stalling, or else those fellows take no stock in your story that I will protect them.' I said they probably did believe me. He asked if Bridge Webster knew the men and could help me. I said he could. He told me to get Becker that night and come up to Harlem to meet him. With Valon and Scheps I got into an auto and went to Bridge's in Forty-second street. Bridge wasn't there, and I left Scheps there to bring him. Valon and myself went at once to One Hundred and twenty-fourth street and Seventh avenue.

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"Becker told me: 'We've just got to get this fellow out of the way, Jack. Why, do you know that the sentiment is up in Police Headquarters is so strong against Herman Rosenthal that any policeman who would croak him would get a medal.'

SAYS BECKER SENT \$100 TO JACK ZELIG.

"Then he told me to go and see Zelig in the Tombs and offer him \$100 if he would look after me. He also told me to go and see Bridge Webster and offer him \$100, but that he wouldn't give Zelig."

"I went to see Zelig and told him that we wanted him to do. He offered him the \$100. I don't want the \$100, Zelig. What I want is to get out of this prison. They 'framed' me up and put me in here. Now I want to get out. I won't turn off anything for you while I'm locked up here. Get me out first, if you want to talk business."

"I went back to Becker and told him that Zelig said he wouldn't do anything for me. He said: 'I don't want the \$100, but that what he wanted was to get out of jail. Well, he won't get out, damn him!' said Becker. 'Let him rot there. That's the last of him and his gang. I'll finish them all off.' "I told Becker I knew some friends of Zelig's who might croak Rosenthal and thus get Zelig out. Becker told me to do that and to assure him that he had no harm to do. He said: 'I don't want to see Zelig. What I want is to get out of this prison. They 'framed' me up and put me in here. Now I want to get out. I won't turn off anything for you while I'm locked up here. Get me out first, if you want to talk business.'

"I said: 'That ought to be easy enough.' I said: 'Becker said: 'But I want to have a serious talk with you. I want you to do a favor for me. You know Big Jack Zelig and he is a friend of yours and he would do a favor for you. He is in bad luck, out of \$10,000 bail, and we ought to be able to use him—you know what I mean. There is only one thing to do. I want you to tell the Commissioner, Becker said, and that is to stop him so that he will be stopped for all time.'

morning and said: 'Rosenthal is still at it, but I don't see those fellows at it.'

GOES BACK TO GUNMEN WITH BECKER'S MESSAGE.

"I said, 'Charlie, those fellows are on the job and they ought to do it most any day now.' I again went to the house on Southern Boulevard and saw Lefty Louis. I told him Becker was getting very sore at the delay and wanted something done. I told Lefty Louis that Becker said if something wasn't done there'd be trouble over the delay."

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Webster—that there were too many people getting mixed up in it. A few days later it was now in July—I was in Still's restaurant with Harry Valon. Webster called me out and said I was wanted at the Lafayette Baths. There I found Lefty Louis, Gyp the Blood and Daggo Frank. They said Webster told them I wanted to see them. I asked them to help me. He said I was wanted. Webster said I wanted to talk about that Rosenthal matter. He said 'we will attend to it at 3 o'clock in the morning.'

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Fourteenth street, and they asked me to find Dora Gilbert. Valon and I went to a house on Fourteenth street and met Dora Gilbert. She said she had brought Dora Gilbert back. I asked Dora if she would make the affidavit for Becker. At that time she refused.

"Next day I went to Arverne, where my home is. I came back the same afternoon. At Fourteenth street I got an auto and began looking for Harry Valon, ending at the Lafayette Baths. Jack Sullivan came in, and I talked to him. I then went to Bridge Webster's and asked him to go down on the east side to see Dollar John and Abe Hahlo. Then I went to the baths. There Becker phoned me, asking if Jack Sullivan had been to see me about the subpoena issued by Whitman for Dollar John, Abe Hahlo and Abe the Reveller. He asked me if I would see them and get assurances from them that they would not corroborate Rosenthal's testimony. I told him I was not friendly with Dollar John, but that I had sent Webster to see them, and that I expected to hear from him immediately."

"Becker asked me if I'd see Dora Gilbert. I said that I was to see her that night. Becker said he was sending two men to me and that I was to take them up to see Dora Gilbert. He said 'I want you to take them up there and get the affidavit. I want it for use in tomorrow's newspapers.'

SAYS BECKER WAS IMPATIENT AT DELAY.

"Then Becker began talking about the delay over the Rosenthal matter. He said: 'Why is there all this delay, all this stalling and holding off? You can't tell me that this thing couldn't have been done before this.' I said: 'Charlie, I've done the best I could.'

"But you haven't done anything," he said. "Do something and do it quick. To-night is the time—before he goes before the Grand Jury."

"All right," I said. "I'll try and do it to-night." I waited at the baths until Sam Scheps, Webster and Smith came up. They had dinner with me.

"After dinner we remained in the baths until 9 o'clock. Then I was called to the phone by Harry Valon and went to the San Polo Club, where I called an automobile. Jack Sullivan spoke to me and I took him to Madison Square Garden. Then I went to Dora Gilbert's and found Valon, Scheps, Mrs. Gilbert, Mrs. Signor and Pitt at work on the affidavit. I suggested some changes, when it was completed, I phoned the Morning Telegraph and they sent a man for a copy of the affidavit. Pitt kept the original. Then I went in the auto to Fifth street and Eighth avenue, where I dropped the Telegraph man and went to Dora Gilbert's and then to Tom Sharkey's place, in Fourteenth street, where I got another car.

THEY GET ABOARD THE GRAY MURDER AUTO.

"Valon, Scheps and myself got in. It was a gray car, driven by William Sharo. We went to No. 25 Seventh avenue and met 'Dago' Frank. I had often seen 'Gyp,' 'Whitney' and 'Lefty' there. When we got there I sent Scheps in to ring the bell. A head popped out of the window and I recognized 'Dago' Frank. He came down and I asked where the rest of the crowd was and he said they were on their way downtown. He got in and we drove to Forty-second street and Seventh avenue. There Bridge Webster, 'Lefty' Louis, 'Whitney' Lewis and 'Gyp the Blood' met us in front of Webster's gambling house. We all went into Webster's, poker room—'Dago' Frank, 'Gyp,' 'Lefty' Louis, Valon, Scheps, Webster and myself. We sat down and had refreshments served. Webster went out, and when he returned he said, 'Rosenthal is around in the Metropole.' "Every one arose immediately and started for the door. There were Louis, Lewis, Gyp, Daggo Frank, Valon and Webster who went. I asked Scheps to stay with me."

Q. Did you see Jack Sullivan? A. I do not remember.

Q. What happened next? A. I was standing up at a couch in the place when word came that Herman Rosenthal had been shot. (This answer was stricken out.)

Q. When did you leave? A. About 3 o'clock in the morning. I sent down stairs for a sandwich. Then I went to the Times Square Building to telephone.

SAYS BECKER CONGRATULATED HIM ON HIS WORK.

"I called him up at his home, I said: 'Hello, there. Did you hear the news?' 'Yes,' he replied, 'I congratulated you. How did you do?' 'Not so good?' I asked. 'Oh, said Becker, 'I got it from a newspaper man.'

"Becker said then that he could come

down to Webster's and meet me. He came down and met me in front of Bridge Webster's.

Q. Where is that? A. At Broadway and Forty-second street.

Rose said that Becker went into Webster's place and then they joined Scheps and Valon and began talking about the murder.

"Bridge," said Rose, "opened the conversation by saying: 'Well, the job is done.' 'Yes,' said Becker, 'I am glad of it. I am glad of it. What caused his delay in coming downtown. He said he stopped at the station house. "Whitman was there," he said. "That means danger." I wanted. "Don't snide yourself," he said. "They haven't anything. They've got several numbers of automobiles, and none of them right."

"Use Becker's exact language," ordered District Attorney Whitman. Rose leaned forward and faced the jury.

DECLARES HE CALLED IT A PLEASING SIGHT.

"I asked Becker," he said, "if he had seen Rosenthal," he said. "I was in the back room and had a look at him. It was a pleasing sight to me to look at the Jew there. If it was not for the presence of District Attorney Whitman I would have cut his tongue out and hung it up somewhere as a warning to other squealers. Now, do not worry. He is dead and that is the end of it. The only thing to do now is to see that those fellows (the gang men) get away and stay away for a few days until this thing blows over."